### FIRST TEXAS REPUBLIC

INTERESTING AND ROMANTIC BIT OF SCUTHWESTERN HISTORY.

The Count St. Denis, Who in 1714 Organized the First Independent Government in North America.

Caldwell (Texas) Letter in St. Louis Globe-

There is much well-authenticated material for the historian in the minds of the old veterans of the border that will soon pass beyond the reach of all writers. Few people know anything of the very first settlements in Texas, and doubtless many will be astonished to learn that the business of creating republics in that country commenced nearly 200 years ago. There were filibusters who dreamed of carving out for themselves an empire in the great Southwest long before even Aaron Burr was born. Others in the ranks of the most careful readers of history will possibly be surprised to learn that the old San Antonio | dered the lands surveyed and granted titles | ago. road, which is one of the best known land- to the settlers. He established trading marks in the Southwest, was laid off and carefully mapped just 182 years ago. It rapidly accumulated a large fortune. He was at one time regarded as the longest possessed the happy faculty of making highway in the world. It was longer than | friends of every man who came in contact any of the old Roman roads-longer than | with him. He was called the "just chief" the great military way that led from the gates of the Eternal City to Constantinople and the Asiatic provinces. The San Antonio road proper ran from San Augustine to San Antonio, and the long road extending south of the Alamo Mission across the Rio Grande to the City of Mexico, a distance of more than 1,000 miles, was also called the San Antonio road. It was originally laid off 100 feet wide. It is a road yet. This great road, over which Spanish viceroys and richly-laden caravans traveled-over which countless thousands crowded their way to Texas battlefields for more than 100 years, was laid off by men who were talking of republican institutions be are the ideas of Jefferson or the triumphs of Washington had ever entered the minds of the wildest dreamers. Spain and France both claimed the coun-

try. France based her claims on the disin searching for the mouth of the Mississippi, sailed too far west, and finally landed on the shores of Matagorda bay. Here he built a fort and called it Fort St. Louis, in honor of Louis XIV, of France. Realizing that he had made a mistake, La Salle, accompanied by a few followers, attempted to march across the country, hoping to reach a French fort on the Ar-kansas river, where he had instructed De Fonti to keep a small body of soldiers. He lost his life through the treachery of his own comrades, and it is supposed that his bones repose somewhere on the shores of concerning the rich country west of the Mississippi river, which bordered on the Guif of Mexico, reached France. The soil was said to be the richest in the world,

READS LIKE A ROMANCE. The bare cold facts of the story of this rounded periods, read so much like the dreams of a romancer that they would be rejected by all historians if they were not supported by indubitable records. Count St. rank of the name of Belisle were both viclently in love with the same young lady. to a duel. The antagonists met and fought a terrible battle with swords, which ter- at the Presidio San Juan on the shores of minated, as St. Denis supposed, in the death the Rio Grande. Thus ended the first of his rival. He at once fled from France. dream of empire in northern Mexico. It of his rival. He at once fled from France, and after a series of narrow escapes from arrest and death he finally landed in America and joined the great Louisiana company. His countrymen received him with open arms and immediately offered him employment. All Spanish territory at that time north of the Rio Grande was ruled by a governor appointed by the Viceroy of Mexico. The Louisiana company was anxious to possess the country, and the authorities sent Count St. Denis at the head of a little army of less than one hundred men to plant the flag of France upon the domes of the Spanish forts and missions. He marched through a region of country that literally swarmed with hostile savages and established himself in northern Texas without ever firing a shot. He must have been an extraordinary young man, possessing many of the traits of a leader, not the least among which were his masterly accomplishments as a diplomat, for he not only made an alliance offensive and defensive with the powerful warlike Natchez, but he soon won he friendship of the Spanish settlers who lived in the territory. Intoxicated with his success, he boldly cut loose from the Louisihis own. This was in the year 1714, and it | the sun it loses its original yellowish color was the very first attempt to establish an North American continent. It was a curious kind of a government. St. Denis was at the head of it under the modest title of Governor, and by the provisions of the Governor, and by the provisions of the ket halls, verandas, transportable buildings much power as the Autocrat of all the Russias. Leaving a trusted subaltern in com-Juan, near the Rio Grande, the Governor received and entertained him in a most hospitable manner. The polished address and courtly military bearing of the bold young adventurer almost instantly won the head the smiles of Donna Maria. A FAITHFUL LOVER.

There was another suitor for the hand of this young lady, and this was no less a vor, although for handsome conservatories, personage than Governor Anaya, of Coahui- skylights, etc., it possesses less durability la. This official no sooner heard of St. Denis and his attention to Donna Maria than he ordered his arrest. St. Dents was loaded with chains and thrown into the fortress of Monoclava. Donna Maria continued to as- with the difference that it is thinner, and sure the young man of her devotion, and | consequently lighter in weight, and the inof the friendship of her father. After St. Denis had been confined a month or more parent than tectorium, although it may be his powerful rival appeared one fine day | colored red, green, blue or any other tint at the door of his cell, followed by a file of his guards, and told St. Denis that if he | ing of heavier wire and with larger meshes would instantly surrender all claims to than the other. The special advantage the hand of Donna Maria that he would re- claimed for hornglas is that it does not lease him and give him letters that would soften under sun heat, and is, therefore, flashing eyes, scorned the offer, and his reply was worthy of one of the old knights of chivalry. "Tyrant, you may load me with chains, but so long as Donna Maria

Awarded Mighest Honors-World's Pair.



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honors me with her love and confidence, so long shall that love and confidence be guarded as my most sacred treasures. You may take from me my nfe, Senor, but you cannot take from me my honor." The tyrant ordered St. Denis to be treated as a common criminal, but when months had passed and the brave young Frenchman showed no signs of yielding, the wretch sent a courier bearing this cruel message to Donna Maria, "Marry me, and St. Denis shall be released; refuse and your lover shall surely die." The fearless young girl declined the tyrant's offer in emphatic terms, and at once applied to the Viceroy in the City of Mexico, telling him the story of their love. The Viceroy was moved by the piteous appeals of the beautiful girl, and he released St. Denis. As soon as St. Denis was liberated he married Donna Maria and resumed his journey to the City of Mexico. Here his pleasing address won all hearts. The Viceroy offered him a position under the Spanish government, and gave him full authority to punish his enemy. St. Denis showed that magnanimity was numbered with his many other fine traits of character, for he refused to make any trouble for the man who had so cruelly wronged him. After a

government in northern Texas. HIS WORK IN TEXAS. It is not known as to what kind of authority was granted to him by the Spanish officials in Mexico. He built a fort at Nacogdoches and laid off a city. He orposts at various points in the interior and by the Indians, and his fame for fair dealing was well established with all the tribes | step. within reach of the capital. While in the height of his power two Indians one day came to his house and told him that they had seen a white man with a tribe of coast Indians who held him as a prisoner. St. Denis at once offered them a large sum of | thigh. Indian. St. Denis ordered a bath for the ever, and is now under arrest. poor shivering creature, and sent a suit appeared before his benefactor. St. Denis no sooner looked at him than he was Frenchmen, and they instantly embraced question was intensified. each other and buried all past differences. Belisle's story was a short one, but full of a nephew of Floyd Hatheld, a and not long afterward he joined a colony of adventurers who sailed to join the Louisiana company at the mouth of the Mississippi. Like La Salle, they lost their way, and sailed too far west. Belisle, with two comrades, went ashore on the coast of Texas to enjoy a hunt. They got lost, and the ship sailed away and left them. After wandering through the forests for many days Belisle's two comrades perished from hunger. Belisle fell in with some coast Indians, who treated him very cruelly. They stripped him of his clothing and would the Neches river. Exaggerated reports have tortured him to death with fire had not an old squaw interfered in his favor. He had been a prisoner with the Indians for a long time. St. Denis gave Ballsle an office in his government, and put him in the climate was salubrious, like that of the way of making money. St. Denis was southern Spain, the mountains were full slain in battle with the Indians on the of gold and silver, and the rivers ran over | frontier of his country, and after his death golden sands. Amongst the hundreds of adventurous and warlike spirits that surrounded the throne of Louis XIV none listened to these stories with more eagerness claimed the protection of his government, including a thirteen-year-old boy, Randolph then Court St. Denis and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite of his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the grocery store and from the finite for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his country, and after his death of the growing for his death of the growin than Count St. Denis. He was a brave, and they were nearly all in prosperous cir-energetic and handsome youth, who had cumstances. Many of them had accumuinherited a great name and many heavily- lated fortunes trading with the Indians, mortgaged estates. The opportunity which | and St. Denis himself was said to have had he eagerly sought to draw his sword and in his possession more than \$100,000 in gold. make an effort to fill his purse on the Had he lived a few years longer he plains of the Rio Grande soon presented would have anticipated the work of Austin and Houston, and firmly established a government in Texas that Mexico could not have overthrown one hunyoung man's adventures, unadorned by Jacinto was fought. He was a well-balanced man, and one born to command. No man ever thought of disobeying his orders. Enough is known of his extraordinary career to force us to the conclusion that he was the greatest man that ever attempted Denis and a young Frenchman of equal to establish a government in Texas. There was no man in the government capable of succeeding him, and the colonists soon returned to the Louisiana possessions. The Their rivalry ended in a quarrel which led Natchez Indians furnished Donna Maria with a guard of honor that escorted her

> SUBSTITUTES FOR GLASS. Three Compositions Coming Into Use in Europe.

and her treasures to her father's home

was 100 years before this dream entered

the brain of other ambitious spirits. It

was a fatal dream that ruined Burr, and

ended in the death of Nolan, Long, Edwards, Austin, Travis, Magee, Fannin and

Philadelphia Record. There are several substitutes for glass in use in Germany, the chief among them being tectorium, fensterpappe and hornglas.
Tectorium, says the London Invention, consists of a galvanized iron web covered with a gelatinous substance, and is translucent, but not transparent. It is described as a substance that can be bent without being broken, and is both tough and flexible. It is said not to be softened by the rays of the sun, is insoluble and is not affected by severe cold. It is a poor conductor of heat and is well adapted for roofs on account of its extreme lightness. When exposed to dependent government ever made on the | durable. One advantage is that it can be

houses, such as are used by most florists and market gardeners, there is another and mand, St. Denis set out for the City of Mexico on a mission that has never been thoroughly understood. He either hoped nila paper, that may be stretched on large through his shrewd powers of diplomacy to sashes or frames and saturated by painting get the Spanish Viceroy to recognize his the exposed surface with boiled linseed oil government, or, failing in this, he expected | until it becomes translucent and imperto turn everything over to Spain and get | vious to water. Light wooden frames forty himself appointed Governor of the terri-tory. When he arrived at the Presidio San are provided and covered with the paper, which is fastened by nailing at the edges, and then painted with ordinary boiled linseed oil until the paper is so saturated that the last coat of oil forms a smooth, glistening surface like varnish. As soon as of the old Governor, and at the same time dry the frame is ready for use. It admits the heart of his beautiful daughter. It was sufficient light for growing plants; does dry the frame is ready for use. It admits a case of mutual love at first sight. St. | not require to be shaded in hot sunshine; Denis almost forgot the empire that he had been dreaming of, while enjoying the hos- by hall or ordinary accident and, taking pitality of Senor Villesecas and basking in | everything into account, is said to be about one hundred times cheaper than glass. It is largely used by florists and market gardeners in the district of Frankfort, and their general verdict is strongly in its faand none of the neatness and elegance of

Finally, there is a new product called hornglas, which has been recently patented and placed on the German market. Hornglas resembles tectorium in appearance, soluble gelatine with which the wire gauze is covered is whiter and more nearly transthat may be desired for special purposes. It is manufactured in two qualities, one besist him in the prosecution of his plans adapted to use in any climate without the the City of Mexico. St. Denis, with danger of becoming so soft and adhesive

Wanted a Porcelain Tub.

Washington Post. "She was a sweet-looking young woman, but she was business all over, and there was that indefinable air about her that bespoke luxury and refinement," said the room clerk of a hotel in the uptown quar-

"Her mother was along, and the young lady wanted the best suite in the house regardless of price. I wanted to secure such good patrons, and went in person to show them what I know to be as handsome apartments as can be found at the capital great, spacious chambers, furnished fit for a queen. The young lady liked them, and a bargain would have been instantly struck had she not chanced to take a peep at the bathroom. That bathroom is a gem itself, with a brand new tub with metal sides

shining like a mirror. "But the tub was not to the young woman's liking, and she gave an exclamation of disappointment. I asked what the trouble was and she said: "I could not possibly think of using a metallic tub; haven't you any of porce-lain?' I was sorry to inform her that we hadn't, and she thereupon took her de-

"Her objection probably arose from the idea that the kind of tub she wanted was safer from microbes or some imaginary enemy to health. It struck me as an overrefinement, but wealthy people are entitled to their fads as long as they are willing to pay for them."

ANOTHER BLOODY KILLING BY "OLD CAP," THE FAMOUS OUTLAW.

During Which the McCoys Were Frequently Butchered.

Williamson (W. Va.) Letter in New York

When the smoke cleared away it was derson Chambers was lying on the ground mortally hurt, and that Hatfield and his twenty-year-old son were fleeing toward the mountains pursued hotly by a young nephew of Rutherford, who fired at every 3

sufferings. He had recovered from the ness in the case, was found dead with a wounds inflicted by the sword of St. Denis, | bullet in his person. Two of the numerous | 3 McCoy boys were tried for the murder and

Virginia mountaineers.

In 1882 there was an election in Pike county. In the early afternoon the inevitable fight cropped out, this time between Ellison Hatfield and Talbert McCoy. When the spectators came out from behind the corner of the grocery store and from behind sun-

Next day the sheriff started through the lonely mountain woods with the prisoners for the Pike county jail. By this time the entire Hatfield clan had heard of the death of Ellison. They rallied immediately around "Anse," the patriarch, and "Old Cap," his son. They ambushed the sheriff, who had the McCoy prisoners in charge, and took matters into their own hands. The sheriff was released, but the McCoys were taken to a lonely log house in the mountains, where they were tied so tightly with ropes that their limbs were practically paralyzed. S On the following morning they were marched over the border into Kentucky, and tied in a kneeling position to some saplings near the margin of the boundary | \$ streams. There was no begging for mercy on the part of the McCoys. They knelt grimly, and sneeringly awaited their fate. Wall Hatfield stood in plain sight on the Virginia side of the river.
"Are you ready?" he cried.
"Yes," said "Old Cap" and Anse and the

other Hatfields. There was a rattle of rifles and two of the McCoys fell limp on their ropes. They were Talbot and Farmer McCoy. The young boy, Randolph, had not been hurt. death of his brothers.

thousands of others who trod the pathway He was there simply as a witness to the of glory which led to the battlefield and This shows the utter disregard in which | 3 the Hatfields have ever held the law. The boy was mounted in front of Wall Hatfield and the party started back for their moun-

On the way "Old Cap" suddenly called a halt. "That boy must die," said he. "Anse" sat silent, thereby consenting. Wall Hatfield raised his voice in the boy's behalf. Some of the other Hatfields did likewise. It was no use. "Anse," the patriarch, and 'Old Cap' ruled things with an iron hand. So the boy was killed and left lying by the side of the road. Of course feeble attempts were made to capture the Hatfields, but without avail. Two years later Jeff McCoy was captured by the Hatfields and shot dead in the presence of his sister. It seemed to be evident that the Hatfields had fully determined upon the extermina-tion of their enemies. No further murders

On New Year's night the Hatfields, feeling dull for want of sometning to do, de-termined to pay another visit to the Mc-Coys. Late at night the nouse of Randolph rounded by a gang of Hatfields. In the house at the time were Randolph McCoy and his wife, his son Calvin, three daughters (Allaphore, Addie and Fannie), Cora, the orphaned daughter of Talbot, and Melvin, the son of Rosanna McCoy.
The Hatfields were headed by "Old Cap"
and Jim Vance. They called on the Mc-Covs to surrender or have the house burned over their heads. The McCoys refused. Then the heroism of border women

house. Allaphore McCoy, a young woman twenty years old, heard the crackling of the flames. She grabbed a churn full of milk and walked calmly out of the house to pour it over the flames. She was shot dead before she could accomplish her ob-

Jones Hatfield, killing him instantly. Then he ran for the woods, escaping without injury. Calvin McCoy rushed from the house and was shot through the brain. The other McCoys were not injured. Throughout the entire feud "Old Cap" Hatfield has borne a charmed life. This latest outbreak was in keeping with his ! former exploits. With two men shooting at him the old man killed three persons and escaped. Hatfield is a very intelligent man, all things considered, and is wonderfully shrewd as well. The feud of the McCoys was settled in

1893 by the marriage of a McCoy to a Hatfield, and there is but little danger that it will break out again. Since this time "Old Cap" has lived a quiet and peaceful life, and his last exploit has caused no end of

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CAREER OF HATFIELDS

Story of the Hatfield-Malloy Fend.

For some time the people of Mingo and Logan counties feared that election day would pass off without the usual "gun | plays" and blood, with which balloting hereabouts is usually leavened and enlivened. Their fears were groundless. "Old Cap" Hatfield came into Matewan on Tuesday last loaded for bear. He usually votes short stay in the capital he returned to his with a Winchester rifle. On this occasion he used both the rifle and a breech-loading shotgun. After he had cast his ballot he began to cast bullets and buckshot in the direction of one Rutherford, the affections of whose wife he had alienated some years

seen that Rutherford was dead, that Hen-

These Hatfields are not to be balked when they are out for blood. One of the bullets from young Rutherford's revolver stung "Old Cap" in his hard and bony It made him mad. He wheeled money if they would go and rescue the around, knelt down, and, taking careful white man and bring him to Nacogdoches, aim, shot young Rutherford through the The Indians went away, and in a few weeks | heart. Then making a mental notch in his they appeared at St. Denis's house with a | calloused brain for his third victim, "Old naked, half-starved human being who was | Cap" again fled for the woods, a marked besmeared with dirt and painted like an | man once more. He was captured, how-

The Hatfield-McCoy feud originated of his own clothes to the bathroom. When | fore the breaking out of the civil war. Its the man had been washed and clothed he immediate cause was the ownership of two bony and bristly mountain hogs. Over struck dumb with amazement. The man | McCoy had a disagreement. They went to was Belisle, whom St. Denis thought he law and Hatfield was beaten. The dispute killed with his sword in Paris. Belisle was was not settled by any means. All the equally as much astonished. They were relatives of the families took sides and the Shortly after the trial "Bill" Stayton, a

"OLD CAP" THE LEADER. Soon afterward Jonce Hatfield became enamoured of Rosanna McCoy and kidnaped her. Matters went along with an occasional death on either side until 1882, when the hottest kind of hostilities began. "Old | Cap" Hatfield became the leader of the Hatfields. Election day is always the favorite time for a gun fight among the

McCoy, were arrested and confined in the

log schoolhouse over night.

took place, however, until 1888.

The Hatfields built a fire against the

The light blazed up and several Hat-fields became visible. Old man McCoy shot

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